REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed April 19, 2004. Claims 1 – 46 were pending in the application. Claims 1 – 46 remain pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-16, 25, and 26-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Goodrum, U.S. Patent 5,922,060, in view of Heinrich et al., U.S. Patent 6,542,995, hereinafter "Heinrich". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant can find no language in Goodrum or Heinrich, either separately or in combination, which teaches or suggests "**wherein the first storage location is coupled to receive the first configuration change signal via a first signal line and the second storage location is coupled to receive the second configuration change signal over a second signal line that is separate from the first signal line**," as recited in Applicant's claim 1. In contrast, Heinrich teaches *a security control unit linked to a peripheral bus on which a secured group of a plurality of peripheral devices are coupled*, and that the security control unit is adapted to detect a change in I/O addresses associated with the secured group of peripheral devices and to prevent accesses to the secured group of peripheral devices before and after the I/O addresses associated therewith are changed. Heinrich further teaches that the changed I/O address can be stored, and that the changed I/O address may be recalled when access to the peripheral devices is attempted. These accesses can be prevented by associating the changed I/O address as one that is to remain secured. (col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 12, emphasis added)

Furthermore, Applicant can find no language in Goodrum or Heinrich which teaches "wherein said bus interface unit includes **a storage unit including a first storage location for storing a state of said first configuration change signal and a second storage location for storing a state of said second configuration change signal**," as recited in Applicant's claim 1. In contrast, Heinrich teaches a method for securing certain Plug and Play peripheral devices connected to an ISA bus. (Abstract) Specifically, Heinrich teaches *a password store and compare unit within a southbridge which retrieves*

passwords stored in non-volatile memory during computer boot-up. (col. 2, lines 40 – 43, emphasis added) Heinrich further teaches that, upon receiving an initialization key, the configuration control unit isolates each Plug and Play device upon the ISA bus and assigns a unique identifier to each device. The identifier number is contained within a register proximate to its respective device, and within a shadow register located within the southbridge. (col. 2, lines 50 – 57)

Accordingly, claim 1, along with its dependent claims 2 – 25, are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the above reasons.

Furthermore, independent claim 26 recites a similar combination of features. Accordingly, claim 26, along with its dependent claims 27 – 46, are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited reference for at least the above reason.

With respect to the remaining 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections, Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons stated above, that the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the independent claims. Removal of the remaining § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.
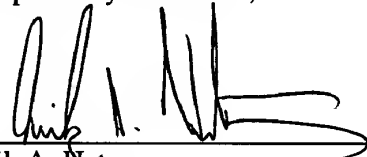
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-35900/BNK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☐ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

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